

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

[(received by the International Bureau on 08 June 2005 (08.06.05);  
original claim 1 replaced by new claim 1; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

1. A handle assembly comprising a handle, a handle spigot to which the handle is attached, biasing means to bias the handle to a naturally closed position, an  
5 operating plate which is rotatable by the handle spigot, a mounting stock, and a housing, the spigot, biasing means, operating plate and a majority of the mounting stock being positioned within the housing, the mounting stock being securable to the housing to hold all the components within the housing.
- 10 2. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a lever handle that may be a left-hand lever handle or a right-hand lever handle.
3. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle spigot  
15 comprises a head portion and an elongate tail portion, the head portion adapted to fit to the handle.
4. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the head portion is angled and fits within a socket or recess in the handle.
- 20 5. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 3, the tail portion is substantially tubular or cylindrical in configuration and has a length of between 10-100 millimetres and a diameter of between 4-20 millimetres, and has an internal configuration to engage with a conventional spindle.
- 25 6. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the tail portion is provided with engagement means to engage with or to the operating plate.
7. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the tail portion has  
30 a slot/groove/recess to engage with a projection on the operating plate, or the tail portion is provided with a projection and the operating plate is provided with a corresponding slot/groove/recess.